GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7431
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2002
BAN ON TOBACCO
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal of the Government of Maharashtra for imposition total ban on the manufacture, consumption, distribution, advertisement, sale and exhibition of Gutkha based on tobacco, is under consideration of the Union Government for some time;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision in the matter is likely to be taken by the Union Government?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (c) : A proposal was received from Government of Maharashtra for banning manufacture, sale, storage, distribution and exhibition of tobacco based Gutka and similar articles for human consumption. The State Government was informed that Central Government Policy in the matter would be to follow an approach of discouraging demand rather than curtail or ban production. A Draft Bill on Cigarettes and other Tobacco products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce,Production Supply and Distribution), 2001 which incorporates such measures and seeks to restrict advertisement of tobacco and tobacco products is already placed before the Parliament for consideration. It was also informed that Section 7
(iv) of PFA Act, 1954 empowered State Governments to restrict any item being sold in the territory of their State in the interest of the health of the public.